

Appl. No. 09/944,066
Amdt. Dated 12/14/2004
Reply to Office Action of 08/31/2004

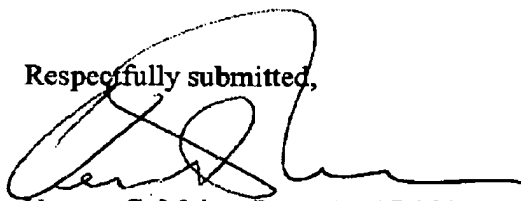
REMARKS

Applicant herein responds to the Office communication of Aug. 31, 2004, in which claims 1, 6-24, and 29-39 were finally rejected. Applicant has herein cancelled all withdrawn claims and amended independent claim 1 and dependent claim 9, affecting these and all pending claims dependent thereon, in order to overcome the standing rejections and bring the claims into compliance with the Office communication. No new matter is added. In support, Applicant remarks as follows:

Applicant refers to its prior remarks regarding 35 USC §102(b) and 35 USC § 103 rejections and the art of Bachner et al and Thomas et al, and also to the Office's comments in its Aug. 31, 2004, paragraph 7, referring to the manner of attachment of Applicant's layers as not being sufficiently narrow or otherwise distinguishable from what is disclosed in Bachner. In particular, the Office invited Applicant to state the lamination limitation appearing prominently in the specification. By its amendments herein, Applicant has expressly limited all pending claims to a "layered and laminated" fabric system; thereby further supporting and securing its previously argued position that the structure of Bachner with its separate slip, is clearly distinguished.

Applicant respectfully asserts these amendments to make the claims fully responsive to the Office Action, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. No new matter is added. Applicant requests speedy reconsideration, and further requests that Examiner contact its attorney by telephone, facsimile, or email for quickest resolution, if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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